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RONALD J. DUNLAVEY

SECRETARY KISSINGER IN AFRICA

ANNCR: VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY DISCUSSES SECRETARY HENRY KISSINGER'S TRIP TO AFRICA:

VOICE:

SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER HAS BEGUN HIS DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BY HAVING TALKS WITH TANZANIAN PRESIDENT JULIUS NYERERE. EVEN AS THEIR DISCUSSIONS WERE TAKING PLACE WEDNESDAY, SPECULATION CONTINUED ABOUT THE EXACT ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE REASONS FOR THE KISSINGER MISSION.

NO DOUBT AWARE OF THIS SPECULATION, MR. KISSINGER HIMSELF WAS AT SOME PAINS, ON THE EVE OF THE NYERERE TALKS, TO SPELL OUT THE AMERICAN ROLE. HE DISCOUNTED THE IDEA THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD LAUNCHED THE PEACE INITIATIVE ON ITS OWN, OR THAT IT HAD ANY SPECIFIC PLAN TO PRESS ON THE PARTIES CONCERNED. THE INITIATIVE, HE SAID, WAS AT THE REQUEST OF AFRICAN LEADERS. SAID MR. KISSINGER: "EVERY STEP THAT HAS BROUGHT US HERE HAS BEEN CAREFULLY DISCUSSED WITH LEADERS IN AFRICA, AND ESPECIALLY WITH FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS. EVERY STEP WE TAKE IN THE FUTURE WILL BE CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS." "WE WILL DO WHAT WE ARE ASKED TO DO," HE ADDED. "WE WILL DO NOTHING THAT IS NOT REQUESTED. WE WILL TAKE NO INITIATIVES THAT ARE NOT INVITED. AND WHATEVER PROGRESS WILL OCCUR DEPENDS ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE PARTIES AND THE GOOD-WILL OF THE PARTICIPANTS."

(OPT)

SECRETARY KISSINGER AND HIS PARTY HAVE ALSO BEEN CAREFUL TO AVOID GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY REGARD THE CHANCES FOR SUCCESS AS GOOD. THEY HAVE STRESSED THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE SITUATION AND HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY ARE SEEKING MODEST PROGRESS

RATHER THAN SWEEPING SOLUTIONS---TO ESTABLISH A NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK, ESPECIALLY ON THE QUESTION OF NAMIBIA. SUCCESS MAY TURN OUT TO BE ELUSIVE, BUT, IN THE WORDS OF MR. KISSINGER: "NO ONE WILL EVER BE ABLE TO SAY WE DIDN'T TRY." (END OPT.)

AS FOR MOTIVES---DISCOUNTING THE USUAL SOVIET CHARGES OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM---A FAVORITE THEORY IS THAT THE KISSINGER MISSION IS DESIGNED TO WIN BLACK VOTES IN THE COMING AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. NEITHER PRESIDENT FORD NOR SECRETARY KISSINGER CAN BE UNAWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BLACK VOTE, BUT, EVEN SO, THIS THEORY IS OPEN TO QUESTION. FOR ONE THING, THE BLACK VOTE---LIKE THE WHITE---IS MUCH MORE LIKELY TO BE INFLUENCED BY DOMESTIC MATTERS THAN BY EVENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. FOR ANOTHER, POLITICIANS COURTING THE BLACK VOTE WOULD THINK TWICE BEFORE UNDERTAKING A MISSION WITH MODEST CHANCES FOR SUCCESS AND A CONSIDERABLE RISK OF NO SUCCESS AT ALL. THEN, TOO, IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT---IF NEWS REPORTS ARE CORRECT---THE WHITE HOUSE HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE MAIL FROM CONSERVATIVE-MINDED PEOPLE WHO OPPOSE AMERICAN BACKING OF MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

IT SEEMS MORE LOGICAL TO CONCLUDE THAT THE MOTIVE FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MISSION IS MUCH SIMPLER: TO TRY TO NEGOTIATE AN END TO THE POLITICAL AND RACIAL INJUSTICE WHICH---IF IT CONTINUES---WILL BRING MORE VIOLENCE AND TRAGEDY TO SOUTHERN AFRICA AND A THREAT TO WORLD PEACE. ANYONE FAMILIAR WITH MR. KISSINGER'S PHILOSOPHY OF WORLD AFFAIRS WOULD KNOW THAT THIS IS MOTIVATION ENOUGH.

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